

REMARKS

Referencing the Office Action, Applicants appreciate the indication that Claims 7-14 and 16-24 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants note that Claims 7 and 16 previously were rewritten in independent form and thus presumably are allowable. Further, Claims 12-14 were previously allowed in the first Office Action. Finally, Claim 20 is in independent form and thus believed allowable. Reconsideration and formal allowance of Claims 7-14 and 16-24 is respectfully requested.

The rejection of Claims 1-6 under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by Beals, U.S. Patent No. 5 251 974, has been considered. However, the cabinet of Applicants' Claim 1 is not believed anticipated by Beals for reasons as discussed below.

Beals discloses a multi-drawer file cabinet. Figure 2 of Beals shows a case envelope 12 having side walls 16 that are monolithic with a top 18 thereof. Case back 30 and kick plate 44 are secured by adhesive to the case envelope 12. Track assemblies 54 that are separate from the side walls 16 include vertical channels or corner posts 56 interconnected by spaced drawer tracks 58. As shown in Figures 4 and 5, and discussed at column 8, lines 44-61 of Beals, the drawer tracks 58 are permanently fixed to flat surfaces of the support flanges 64 of the vertical channels by mechanical fasteners 68, 76. Thus, the track assemblies 54, including the vertical channels 56, are not joined to the side walls 16 of the case envelope 12 until inserted therein and glued thereto as illustrated in Figures 3-3D.

Figure 15 of Beals illustrates the top 18 and side walls 16 formed from a coil 14 as a monolithic member. The monolithic member includes a front flange 20 and return flange 26, as well as a rear perimeter flange 22 for the side wall 16. Each corresponding and upright side wall of Beals is not a separate "monolithic, one-piece structure" as defined in Claim 1. Moreover, the uprights of Beals are not "front and

rear uprights having a plurality of vertically-spaced openings extending horizontally therethrough" as also recited in Applicants' Claim 1.

Applicants' Claim 1 further recites slide units having "a rail structure provided with front and rear flanges which respectively engage in one of the openings respectively associated with the front and rear uprights associated with an adjacent said sidewall structure". This arrangement is illustrated in Applicants' Figure 9.

As discussed above, Beals utilizes fasteners to permanently secure the drawer tracks 58 to the vertical channels 66. There is no disclosure of the rail structure or drawer tracks having flanges that engage openings in the vertical channels.

More importantly, Applicants' Claim 1 recites "each said sidewall structure including the exterior sidewall and the uprights fixed thereto being an integral monolithic, one-piece structure formed from a single flat metal sheet".

As discussed above, Beals discloses the uprights or channels 56 as separate members that are adhesively secured to the side walls. Thus, Beals does not disclose the channels monolithic with the side walls 16.

For the above reasons, independent Claim 1, and Claims 2-6 dependent therefrom, are believed allowable over Beals.

Added Claim 25 recites "a separate top wall structure extending horizontally across an upper end of said upright wall arrangement and fixedly joined thereto for closing off the upper end of the housing". Beals does not disclose or suggest providing a "separate" top wall structure fixedly joined to the upright wall arrangement. Instead, the case envelope 12 of Beals includes a top 18 that is monolithic with both of the side walls 16. Therefore added Claim 25 is believed to further distinguish Beals.

The Examiner's rejection of Claim 15 as anticipated by Beals under 35 USC §102(b) is also believed improper, as discussed hereinafter.

Claim 15 recites "each said sidewall structure including the exterior sidewall and the uprights fixed thereto being an integral, monolithic, one-piece structure formed from a single flat metal sheet". As explained in detail above, Beals does not disclose each of the sidewalls and the uprights fixed thereto being a one-piece monolithic structure formed from a single flat metal sheet.

In Beals, the channels or corner posts 56 are not monolithic with the side wall 16. As discussed above, the posts 56 are glued to the side wall. Also, the right and left sidewalls of Beals are not separate members.

For the above reasons, Applicants' Claim 15 is believed allowable over Beals.

Reconsideration of this application, and allowance of Claims 1-25 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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